

I N D E X

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D I G E S T O F E V I D E N C E

TO THE

R E P O R T

ON

Museums of the Science and Art Department.

Session 1898.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
29 July 1898.*

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, FETTER LANE, E.C.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
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JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
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HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1898.

I N D E X.

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2. *Building Accommodation.*
3. *Visitors; Hours of Admission.*
4. *Question of Sunday Opening.*
5. *Degree of Usefulness of the Museum; Suggestions for its Improvement and Development in several directions.*
6. *Expenditure; inadequacy of the Public Grant for the Museum and National Library.*
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1. *Official Explanations and Suggestions on various points.*
2. *Exhibition Cases, and Custody of Objects on Loan: Question of their greater accessibility.*
3. *Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee.*

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1. *Official Representations on several Points.*
2. *Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee.*

1. *Official Representations, on several Points:*

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Indirect relations of witness with provincial schools; he has nothing to do with the distribution of objects but has the recommendation of new masters and of temporary masters when application is made, *Sparkes* 1466-1473, 1483, 1484.

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SCIENCE MUSEUM, &c.:

Witness (who is Director of the Science Museum at South Kensington), submits a statement showing in detail the history and progress of the museum, and the recommendations of several Committees and Royal Commissions for its development, *Festing* 736-742—Description of the location of the different science collections at the present time, the available space being very inadequate; urgent want of a minimum exhibition space of about 90,000 square feet, *ib.* 741-749—Sufficient room for the accommodation of students and of science classes; facilities given, *ib.* 756, 757, 768-770, 775-785.

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Explanations with further reference to the facilities given to classes from schools in connection with the Science and Art Department; question for consideration as to the circulation of objects or specimens to schools not in connection with the Department, *Festing* 776-798—Reference to the food collection, the agricultural collection, and some others as having ceased to expand, *ib.* 799-802.

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Explanations respecting the much closer connection between the College of Science and the Science Museum than between the former and the South Kensington Department, *Sir N. Lockyer* 1169–1181.

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Skinner, A. B., B.A., F.S.A. (Digest of his Evidence.)—Witness is Assistant Director of the Art Museum at South Kensington; he has nothing to do with the Science Museum, 1485, 1486.

Entire approval of the system at the British Museum of not removing officials from one department to another, 1488, 1489—Single instance since 1879 of witness having been asked to make a probationary report as to the fitness of a newly-appointed officer, 1490–1500—Explanation that it is only as regards second-class clerks that an annual report is made to the Civil Service Commission, 1501–1506.

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Particulars respecting the staff and duties of technical assistants, art repairers, and labellers, 1534–1561—Explanation and strong approval of the system of separation of duties under several divisional officers, 1562–1571—Practise as to purchases, recommendations being made by witness and the departmental officers under him, 1572–1577.

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Opinion that whilst the larger proportion of objects in the department should be circulated those should be exempted which are unique and of great value, 1607–1609—Suggestions as regards the collection of casts and their arrangement, 1610–1617.

Further explanation as to the functions exercised by witness and Mr. Clarke, respectively, and by the divisional heads, 1618–1625. 1659–1670—Facility with which witness can obtain books from the library, 1626–1629—Dissatisfaction of witness with the labelling, as being antiquated, whilst the prices marked on the labels are very misleading, 1630–1646.

Advantage if there were maps showing the geographical distribution of different forms of art, 1647–1649—Approval of fuller information on the labels, so that catalogues would be less necessary, 1650–1652—Concurrence in the view that pictures are hardly in place in an industrial museum, though they are much in demand for circulation, 1653–1658. 1671–1677.

[Second Examination.] Approval of the museum directors deciding upon the objects to be circulated, and of the more valuable objects being sent to important places like Birmingham and Nottingham, but not to other places indiscriminately, 1676–1686. 1698—Degree of advantage in showing by means of labels that special objects have been exhibited in important centres, 1687–1697—Practice in circulating copies or reproductions, a description being given of the originals, 1699–1703.

Skinner, A. B., B.A., F.S.A. (Digest of his Evidence)—continued.

Increasing desire on the part of local museums for the loan of objects of educational value; steps taken at South Kensington to comply with local demands, and to circulate exhibits most suitable for the industrial wants of each locality, attractive objects being also sent, 1704-1712. 1773-1786—Instances of applications from temporary industrial exhibitions; advantage in complying therewith, 1713-1715.

Decided advantage if lecturers were sent to local museums with the objects circulated; prospect of arrangements to this end being soon carried out in witness' department, some addition to the staff being necessary, 1716-1746—Illustration in the case of Bethnal Green Museum of the importance of lectures in connection with local industries, 1723-1730. 1736.

Approval of master labels (in addition to the labels attached to objects) being attached to the museum cases and also of similar labels at the entrances to the galleries, 1747-1757—Explanation of the facilities for the purchase of catalogues by the public and of the steps taken by witness and other officials for the supply of cheap descriptive catalogues, 1758-1769—Instance, in the case of Leicester, of the expediency of not limiting the loan collection to the main industry of the place, 1776. 1781. 1819-1822.

Advantage of rooms being constructed and fitted up as reproductions of different periods and styles; encouragement thereby to home manufacture, 1787-1802—Admission that some cartoons or mosaics in one of the larger galleries have long remained in an unfinished state, 1803-1811—Statement with further reference to the subject of probationary reports, witness explaining that in a certain case he would have reported on an officer not of the second-class if he had been asked to do so, 1812-1818.

Adoption of many of the suggestions made in the Paper put in by Mr Purdon Clarke in his evidence last Session respecting circulation, 1823-1825—Information as to the enlargement in the variety of collections sent to schools of art, since Sir John Donnelly's Paper of October 1896; numerous processes sent out, besides a large number of books, lantern slides, &c., 1826-1840.

Obstacles at present to sending objects of art of an educational character to such institutions as university colleges, 1841-1847—Loan of collections to some schools of art on condition that the public shall be freely admitted to see them, 1847. 1848. 1853-1855—Facility as to pupils or students at the schools being allowed to handle casts and other objects, whilst some objects in cases are not allowed to be handled, 1849-1861.

South Kensington Museum (Original Establishment). Summary by the Committee of the circumstances in connection with the promotion and establishment of the South Kensington Museum and of the branch at Bethnal Green. Second Report in, IV. xxv.

Sparkes, J. C. L. (Digest of his Evidence.)—Witness is Principal of the Royal College of Art at South Kensington, 1411.

Mission of the college with reference to industrial art, as distinct from fine art, two-fold purposes had in view in obtaining works of art from the museum, there being two different classes of students, 1413-1415—Explanation of the process necessary in order to obtain the required objects from the museum for study in the art school; important modifications of the old process in 1891 and 1894, all objects in circulation being now received very promptly after requisition has been made for them, 1416-1425.

Importance attached to the circulation of objects intrinsically valuable, though as regards the art school at South Kensington, this is not essential, as the students are close to the museum, 1425*-1435—Consideration of the practice as to the custody and handling of objects when circulated to provincial schools, opinion that the art master of each school should have the same facilities as the director of the museum as to the handling of the objects, 1436-1449.

Advantage of objects being exhibited in schools where technical processes are taught, difficulties in showing the processes or methods of manufacture in the case of pottery, 1444-1465—Importance of museums in connection with schools where technical work is part of the curriculum, 1448-1451—Approval of a system whereby many small country schools might be worked in connection with large local museums as centres, 1452-1454.

Indirect relations of witness with provincial schools; he has nothing to do with the distribution of objects, but has the recommendation of new masters and of temporary masters when application is made, 1466-1473. 1483. 1484—Discretion necessary as to the circulation and handling of objects; those which are priceless should not be sent, 1477-1479—Conclusion that the removal of the mere Science and Art Department from South Kensington would not injure the work of the museum, 1480-1482.

Spring-Rice, G. E., C.B. (Digest of his Evidence.)—Explanatory statement on the part of the Treasury as to the functions of that Department, and of the Comptroller and Auditor

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Spring-Rice, G. E., C.B. (Digest of his Evidence)—continued.

Auditor General, respecting the form of the Accounts and of the Votes of the Science and Art Department, with special reference to the monies voted for Bethnal Green Museum, and the check exercised by the Treasury in the matter, 2256 *et seq.*

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STAFF (SOUTH KENSINGTON):

1. *Official Explanations on several points.*
2. *Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee.*

1. *Official Explanations on several points:*

Quotation of certain provisions of the Superannuation Act, and of the Order in Council of June 1870, as regards the regulations with respect to appointments in the museums; final settlement of this matter by the Treasury on 31st December 1897, reference having first been made to the Civil Service Commissioners, *Sir J. Donnelly* 10-17.

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Summary of the several grades of officials and of the number of officers in each grade, the responsibility being clearly defined, *Sir J. Donnelly* 311-314—General rule that any applications or recommendations from officials as regards retirement, &c., must go through witness to the Lord President or Vice-President, *ib.* 388-394.

Suggestions for the enlargement of the staff at South Kensington in connection with the Circulation and Loan Department, which is much undermanned; witness, however, has no complaint whatever to make on the part of his own museum (Birmingham), *Wallis* 1259-1270, 1319, 1320.

Single instance since 1879 of witness having been asked to make a probationary report as to the fitness of a newly-appointed officer, *Skinner* 1490-1500—Explanation that it is only as regards second-class clerks that an annual report is made to the Civil Service Commission, *ib.* 1501-1506.

Summary of witness' functions and of the departmental arrangement of the work and of the staff under him, there being five distinct divisions, Mr. Purdon Clarke being in supreme control, *Skinner* 1506-1585. 1618-1625. 1659-1670—Statement with further reference to the subject of probationary reports, witness explaining that in a certain case he would have reported on an officer not of the second class if he had been asked to do so, *ib.* 1812-1818.

As Civil Service Commissioner witness explains that since an Order in Council in 1871 probationary reports have not been received by the Commission respecting clerks appointed after examination to any public department; report received only in the case of clerks non-accepted during probation, *Courthope* 2219-2225, 2231-2248. 2253-2258—It is not known to the candidates who the examiners are, *ib.* 2227-2230. 2249-2252.

Statement showing the mode of filling the various situations in the museums, &c. under the Science and Art Department, *App.* 198-200.

Paper handed in by Sir John Donnelly, 25th March 1898, showing the existing museum staff in the several divisions and the proposed staff, *App.* 213.

Table showing the results of an open competitive examination held in August 1893 for two situations as assistant keeper in the art branch of the South Kensington Museum, *App.* 214.

Statement by Sir J. Donnelly enumerating the junior assistants brought in under Class VII. of the Order in Council of 1870, *App.* 231.

2. *Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee:*

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Importance of the staff, when experienced in the work, not being transferred from one department to another, *Second Rep.* xxvi—Avoidance of the evil of interchange of officials in the case of the Science Museum, *ib.*

Expediency of assigning a certain section of work to each official on entrance, so that he may become an expert; disadvantage hitherto from a lack of experts, *Second Rep.* xxviii—Frequency of the process of interchange, the Committee being strongly of opinion that this is detrimental to the public service, *ib.*

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Recommendation that probationary reports about officials should be invariably made, facilities of appeal being given to the person reported upon, *Second Rep.* xxix.

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See also *Administration.* Armstrong, Mr., C.B. Johnstone, Professor (Dublin Museum). Lehfeldt, M. A. Libraries. Purchases. Resident Officers. Weale, H. J. W.

Stepney, The Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of. (Digest of his Evidence).—Intimate acquaintance of witness with the educational wants of the East End of London, 2706-2709.

Conclusion as regards the Bethnal Green Museum that it is of very little use at present and urgently requires being brought in touch with the people and with the needs of the locality; inadequate return for the expenditure incurred, 2711. 2715. 2716. 2729-2733. 2772, 2773. 2781. 2832, 2833—Importance of the museum comprising a department of science and art and a library, as intended under the original scheme of the museum, 2710-2715. 2721 *et seq.*; 2848-2850.

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I N D E X
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MUSEUMS OF THE SCIENCE AND
ART DEPARTMENT.

Session 1898.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
29 July 1898.*

[Price 4½d.]

327—IND.

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